



Southeast News

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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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The Christmas Fund *With Eyes Wide Open!*



FOR THE VETERANS OF THE CROSS
and THE EMERGENCY FUND

THE CHRISTMAS FUND: A Reminder

Every Christian is called to witness to the faith, but pastors are uniquely called to the tasks of preaching, teaching, and serving. There is a unique combination of tasks which has demanded of them special training and special dedication. Many have given a lifetime of service to the church. Now, in their retirement, some of them have special needs. The Christmas Fund, received annually by the Pension Boards of the United Church of Christ, honors all these senior servants of the church and directly helps several hundred who need a special Christmas check.

The Fund also provides year-round help to ministers and to their families, assisting them as they try to meet emergencies beyond their own resources. As you remember the members of your own immediate family at Christmas, remember, too, these retired members of our larger family, the church.

Christmas Fund materials, including offering envelopes and posters, have been forwarded to all churches within the Conference.

BWM Responds to Toccoa Falls Disaster

Toccoa Falls, Georgia, site of Toccoa Falls College, was the scene of a recent disaster when an earthen dam gave way during a heavy rainfall sending a 30 foot wall of water rampaging through the town. Besides extensive property damage a number of lives were lost in the disaster. Nearest to the dam and most heavily affected by the disaster was Toccoa Falls College, a Christian Missionary Alliance College. Students living in dormitories, and especially student families living in house trailers, lost almost if not all of their personal belongings.

In response, the Board for World Ministries of the United Church of Christ has forwarded \$2,000 in relief funds, \$1,500 of which will go directly to students hardest hit by the tragedy for replacement of basic necessities, and \$500 of which will go to the college.

The funds utilized by the Board for World Ministries were contributed by you through the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) all church offering.

Are Women Interested?

If you stay around long enough, you will always find yourself up to date. For years, the Women's Fellowship was a viable and active organization not only on the local church level, where it still is a key group in most of our churches, but it maintained an effective organization across Association as well as Conference lines. Several years ago, Association and Conference wide organizations were de-emphasized and many simply faded away.

But at this past summer's General Synod, there was a call for regional meetings of Women in 1978 (Women's Fellowship, Women's Task Force, and other Women in Leadership positions.) Also, Women Clergy and women in seminary are to meet. The Office for Church Life and Leadership is undertaking plans for these meetings. Plans are also underway for a National Meeting of



PRESIDENT AVERY POST

POST ATTENDS ATLANTA CMP MEETING

Rev. Avery Post, newly-elected President of the United Church of Christ was in attendance at a recent two day Consultation on Mission Priorities for Conferences in the southern region.

Attended by executives and moderators of the Southeast, Southern, South Central and Florida Conferences, the meeting provided the occasion for sharing of concerns, coordination of inter-Conference programs and an introduction to the translation of General Synod priorities into work agendas by the instrumentalities of the United Church.

In addition to Rev. Post, Rev. Gary Oniki, Executive Director for the Office for Church in Society, and Rev. Richard Griffis, Assistant to the President, were also in attendance. The Southeast Conference was represented by Dr. David Beebe, Moderator, Rev. William Scott, Mr. Franklin Thomas, Rev. Stephen Gray and W.J. Andes, Conference Minister. Farewells were given to Rev. Callie Rogers of the Office of Church Life and Leadership who, as of December 1, will begin a pastorate in Raleigh, N.C.

Women in 1979, made possible by proceeds from the 1978 Family Thank Offering.

The question is, are women in the Southeast Conference interested?

Southeast Conference Moderator David Beebe, has been asked by the Executive Committee of the Conference to appoint a Task Force on the role of Women in Church and Society. This Task Force will hold its initial meeting in the new year.

Oak Grove Hosts E. Ala. Association

The East Alabama Association met in annual session at Oak Grove Church, Pine Mountain, Ga., October 15, 1977.

The meeting was called to order by the Moderator, Rev. John Schofield. Devotional was led by Ed Lauderdale, pastor of Elder Church. Greetings and Welcome were given by Donald Scovill, host pastor.

Lunch was served to the delegates by the Women's Fellowship in Fellowship Hall.

Business begun in the morning session continued through the afternoon. Devotion was given by E.G. Clark, pastor of Roanoke, Bethany. The Youth Choir of Phenix City, First gave presentations.

The most pressing item was the Association Fund Proposal, which was voted unanimously to distribute a certain portion of the money to the needy. Another was the election and installation of new officers for the coming year. Certificates were presented to fifteen churches that reached or exceeded the OCWM Goal.

After adjournment, supper was served by the Oak Grove Men's Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall.

At 7:00, a worship service was led by the host pastor, Donald Scovill, assisted by Moderator, John Schofield. Selections were given by Lanett Church Hand Bell Choir.

The session closed with the showing of the filmstrip "To Walk Together" (History and Heritage of the United Church of Christ).

—Mildred Thompson,
Church Reporter

Payment Now Due on Fidelity Program for Churches

Over 1200 churches are now covered in the Fidelity program initiated by the Board for Homeland Ministries three years ago. Payment of a \$15 premium for the next three years is now due. This payment should be made on or before January 1, 1978. If not paid, coverage will be lost.

Churches covered are being notified by the Board, but no further notice can be sent. A slight increase was made because of several claims paid.

Churches not protected for malfeasance should apply for such. The three-year cost of \$15 is minimal and cannot be matched by individual policies.

In light of the unfortunate experiences of some covered churches, a four-point



MRS. E. L. SIMON

Mrs. E. L. Simon Given Art Award

At their meeting on September 30, 1977, at Peachtree Plaza Hotel, the Atlanta N.A.A.C.P. at their 20th Annual Freedom Fund Awards Dinner presented the James Weldon Johnson Award for Outstanding Contributions in Art to Mrs. E.L. Simon, member of Atlanta First Church.

Others receiving awards were: Mr. Roy Wilkins, Mr. Benjamin Hooks, Dr. Benjamin Mays, Ambassador Andrew Young, Mrs. Ruby Hurley, Cleavon Little, Isaac Hayes, Janet DuBois and Liz Spraggins. Other guests were Mrs. Hank Aaron and Congressman Julian Bond.

Mrs. Simon reported that as a student at Atlanta University, she had heard James Weldon Johnson speak 2 hours and 20 minutes, but it all seemed like 20 minutes. Mr. Johnson gave his "Creation", which Cleavon Little recited at the banquet. Isaac Hayes played and sang one of his compositions.

Mrs. Simon is now listed in "Who's Who in American Art, the World's Who's Who of Women and Women Artists in America," "Black Dimensions in Art".

Mrs. Simon's art was on display at the June meeting of Southeast Conference in Central Church, Atlanta.

procedure is recommended:

1. An annual audit by an independent, outside accounting firm.
2. Checks should be countersigned.
3. Bank deposits made by persons other than those counting church collections.
4. Bank statements reconciled monthly by person other than those authorized to make deposits or sign checks.

Health and Welfare Sunday

Sunday, December 4, will be observed as Health and Welfare Sunday in many congregations of the United Church of Christ. At present, the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries is related to 110 Health and Welfare institutions that include residential facilities for the aging, hospitals, nursing homes, service agencies for children, the handicapped, and settlement houses.

One example of the sort of creative care provided through these agencies comes from the Cedar Lake Home Campus in West Bend, Wisconsin. Cedar Lake Home Campus provides eight different kinds or levels of services for aging adults. There is a retirement center with individual houses, a room-and-board Fellowship community, a rehabilitation center for short or long term care, the Annex which provides nursing security with "as independent as possible" living, Friendship House for the forgetful or disoriented, an out-patient center, and a day-care center for families. Above all, throughout all these services there is caring.

One of these 110 health and welfare institutions in the Southeast Conference is Uplands Retirement Center. With a nursing home, and individual and apartment style living units, Uplands serves retirees through your generous support.

THE CROZERS RETIRE

John and Emily Crozier, missionaries in India since 1962, have retired and will spend their retirement in New Zealand. They most recently have been working with the All-Saints Church in Bombay.

Churches in the Southeast Conference, particularly in the Southern Alabama Area, have shared in their ministry ever since the Croziers visited the area in 1973. Churches throughout the Southern Alabama Area helped support the Croziers through contributions of goods and money.

Dedicated Pilgrims

Pilgrim Church, Birmingham, has voted to dedicate Special Advent and Easter offerings (1977-78) to church extension and/or aided fields within the Southeast Conference. Pilgrim's proposed budget for 1978 (total, \$72,882) calls for \$8,000 OCWM, or \$1,000 more than the goal!

Ala-Tenn "Pop-In" Enjoyed

Over 30 young people gathered at Huntsville UCC November 11-13 for a "Pop-In," sponsored by the Alabama-Tennessee Association. Designed as a weekend of fun and fellowship, youth and advisors "pop-in" to a local church where meals and sleeping facilities are provided. The first in a series of four planned Association youth get-togethers, the Huntsville program included a visit to the Huntsville Space Center, some faith reflections, a drive-in movie, church on Sunday and plenty of fellowship.

Following a planning meeting in January, the next scheduled weekend event will be held in the first part of February in the northeast section of the Association.

TEENS AS STEWARDS

If the word "stewardship" doesn't mean much to you or to any teenagers you know, you will want to get a hold of a copy of the 16-page booklet *Teens as Stewards*. This new stewardship education resource will give life to the old word!

This resource was written by the Rev. George S. Siudy, Jr., Secretary for Stewardship Education on the staff of the Stewardship Council, in consultation with Sister Audrey Miller, C.D.P., of the Sisters of Divine Providence, and Secretary for Educational Program of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries.

The intent of the booklet is to enable the reader to develop capacity to use money, time, and ability in ways that bring self-fulfillment, enable others to be fulfilled, enrich community inside and outside the church, and are in accord with Christian values and goals.

Teens as Stewards is a three-unit course which can be used with teens in confirmation classes, in fellowship groups or church schools, or at summer camps or conferences. Suggestions for leaders include activities which will help move users from "reading" to "doing." Additional resources are listed for each unit.

Beyond its intended audience, however, there may be many adults who will find this little booklet most helpful. Take a look at it and see for yourself. You are likely to find that the word "stewardship" takes on new and deeper meaning for your own life!

Copies may be ordered free in quantity from the Stewardship Council, 1505 Race Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102.



L. to R. Linda Hankins, Central [Atlanta], Faya Donaldson, Bethany [Thomasville], Malbro Roberts, Midway, Trudi Sanford, Advisor, Central [Atlanta].

Youth Fellowship at Midway Involved

The Youth Fellowship of Midway Congregational Church, UCC, Midway, Ga., is active in all areas of the church. Besides being represented on each official board and auxiliary, the youth as a whole assume responsibility for the entire worship service each fifth Sunday. The youth group also sponsors several money-making projects throughout the year to finance trips and/or meetings that the group needs to attend. One example of this was the Southeast Conference Annual Meeting this past summer, in which all expenses of the seven youth attending were raised by the group.

In addition to a Career Day, the group also sponsored a retreat attended by their own members as well as the youth of First Church, Savannah.

Two members of the youth group, Warren Waye and Malbro Roberts, are part of the Georgia Youth Empowerment Team for which they have attended several meetings during the past year.

—Malbro Roberts

Youth Core Part of Ga.-S.C. Association Meeting

The Youth Core Planning Committee for Georgia-South Carolina Association played an important part in the program at the Association's annual meeting in Augusta, October 22. The Committee was responsible for 17 youth from throughout the Association taking part in a skit.

Set in the year 1987, the skit projected their reaction as adults to a social problem prompted by a local tragedy. A youngster, after being intently absorbed in a TV show, committed suicide. The community persons, played by the young people, gathered to decide the role of the Christian Church in response to the issue of TV offerings. Responses varied according to the role of each of the young people played. Following the skit, adult members of the Association were invited to respond to the issue.

The skit opened with music from "Star Wars" as the group entered the church to be seated among the delegates. An emcee gave the time and situation; a youth mimed the tragedy, and the question was posed: Does our church have responsibility for TV violence coming into our homes, and if so, what can we do about it? After responses, some of which were quite eloquent, the skit was closed with a beautifully sung solo with guitar

New Resources: Highways of Service

Since the earliest times, Christians have followed the example of the Good Samaritan in ministering to those in need — along the “Jericho Road.” Today there are 900 million people who constitute the “absolute poor,” living on incomes of less than \$75 per year. Some experts believe that the total number of malnourished people, both here and abroad, tops one million. Estimates say that 300 million children are crippled for life, both physically and mentally, by malnutrition. Fifteen million other children will die before they reach the age of five!

Every day, news stories from around the world testify to the need for food, shelter, water, clothing, medicine, and countless other resources. These needs we help to meet through our contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing.

Besides these contributions, we can help by providing additional material aid. The booklet *Highways of Service*, now in a new edition, lists much of what is needed and where. Church groups will find that this catalogue of needs for material aid will suggest all manner of special projects for church-school and fellowship groups. While the projects included will not wipe out hunger and poverty, they will help, for when people's needs are met — even minimally — they may be able to concentrate on changing the circumstances which are the fundamental cause of their unhappy plight. In most of these material-aid projects, we cooperate with other denominations in meeting the need.

Copies of *Highways of Service* may be secured from the Stewardship Council, 1505 Race Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102.

Former Minister Marries

Ms. Sandra L. Morris, former Minister-Chaplain at Baptist Hospital in Atlanta and member of Central Church, was married on September 18 to Rev. Lynn R. Schultz. Mr. Schultz is pastor of Zion United Church of Christ, Arendtsville, Pa., where the couple will make their home on S. High Street.

accompaniment, and scriptural readings relevant to social commitment.

Author of the skit was Faya Donaldson; manager, Malbro Roberts; soloist, Linda Hankins — all part of Youth Core Planning Committee.

The skit was presented in the final portion of the Association's program, which was entitled “Memory-Hope: 1930-50, 1950-70, 1970 and on.”



GARDEN CITY CONGREGATIONAL-CHRISTIAN CHURCH, UCC

—Around the Conference—

Spotlight: GARDEN CITY

From the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River, from the Gulf of Mexico to the mountains of Kentucky, the Southeast Conference covers a broad expanse of territory. Contained within her boundaries are some 120 churches — widely dispersed — widely diverse in heritage and religious expression — and yet united in the conviction that the churches of Jesus Christ “may all be one.”

Representative of a large percentage of churches within the Conference is Garden City Congregational-Christian Church, United Church of Christ in Garden City, Alabama. What helps to make Garden City so representative is that it is a small church — a church that has known some discouragement and has overcome innumerable struggles — and yet a church whose vitality and outreach reminds us that the true church is to be found “wherever two or three gather in my name.”

Founded in 1918 as part of the “Bear Creek Association” of North Alabama, Garden City Church experienced real struggle through the depression and the early forties. Except for the years 1933-35 when the church was served by the Rev. Floyd Price, services were “far and few between” due to the scarcity of Congregational ministers in the southeastern part of the country — a problem with small churches that the Conference is still working to overcome. Since its inception, the church has been served by some 24 ministers of whom only 12 were members

of our denomination. In response, Garden City tapped the pastoral resources of the Methodist, Episcopalian, Presbyterian and E&R churches, all of which gave the church a good deal of experience in “ecumenical relationships.” Rev. Annie Campbell (1948-55) and Rev. Roger Whitley, the church's present pastor who arrived in 1966, are the two ministers who have served the longest terms in the church's 59 year history.

But in spite of the difficulties pastoral leadership presented, the church has maintained a vital contribution to its community. In response to the Conference aid received during the 50's, the church has tried to help others in every possible way since becoming self-supporting. Establishing and housing the first public library, the church was instrumental in the formation of the Tri-County Circulating Libraries. With increased giving to OCWM and OGHs, the church has also contributed to scholarship funds, medical centers and facilities, tornado and hurricane relief and individuals in financial need. In addition to other outreach gifts, the church provides coal and other necessities to needy families, aid to fire victims and fees for underprivileged youth to attend summer camps.

Having moved the original church building in 1954, the church added a fellowship hall in 1963 with additional renovations this past summer. With a membership of 25 people, Garden City endeavors to meet the needs of its members as well as its community — and in so doing proves that “small can be beautiful.”

East Alabama Association Takes Special Action

The following resolutions were passed by the East Alabama Association at their Annual meeting, October 15, 1977, and forwarded to the Southeast News for publication:

1. "That we send through our Board for World Ministries to the Rev. Victor Pandian, a native pastor of India, working in the field of Evangelism in the Madras Diocese of the Church of South India, a gift of \$2,000 to aid him in his work with other native pastors in his area.

2. "That we send through the Board for World Ministries to the Habitat for Humanity for helping to build houses for the needy people of Zaire, a contribution of \$1,000. This is the project that our own Millard Fuller started and is being continued by the natives.

3. "That we send a contribution of \$1,000 to be used in the Morgan-Scott Project at Deer Lodge, TN.

4. "That we send to the Southeast Conference \$2,000 to be used in the new church development project which is now underway in Gwinnett County, Georgia.

5. "We, the East Alabama Association of Congregational-Christian Churches, UCC, resolve to let it be known that we do not condone the ordination of homosexuals. To do so would be contradictory to Holy Scripture. Two examples would be Romans 1:26 and 27, and I Corinthians 6:9 and 10. We ask our sister Associations and our Conference to support this action."

—Rev. John D. Schofield
Moderator

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A GOOD SPIRIT AT S. ALA- N. W. FLA. ASSOCIATION



L to R — Alton Nixon, pastor of Good Hope Church, Baker, Fla., elected Vice Moderator and Roy Bain of Pyron's Chapel, Baker, Fla., elected Moderator of S. Ala-N.W. Fla. Association 10/8/77.

Several carloads of people got lost trying to find Blackwood Church, Headland, Alabama, October 8, 1977, where the S. Alabama-Northwest Florida Association met.

The lost having found their way, the Association was led in worship by Dale Forman. His theme was "Leadership through Commitment to Christ."

The ministers and lay leaders reported monthly meetings.

The churches reported as follows:

Andalusia, Antioch: No minister part of the year; Women's Fellowship provided fruit baskets, honored two senior citizens; painted basement; had 60 in Vacation Church School; sent money and clothes to Elon Home for Children; new minister, Elmer Carnes, from Rockville, Ga.

Andalusia, First: 4 new members, 50 active members; gave gifts to Elon Home for Children, bought house in Guatemala, new pews, carpet and stained-glass windows; active Women's Fellowship. Woody Clark, pastor.

Baker, Good Hope: Good revival; honored Senior Citizens; Youth at Southeast Conference; gifts to Elon Home for Children; two weeks Vacation Church School; Youth singings; Alton Nixon, pastor.

Baker, Pyron Chapel: 6 new members; 41 active members; installed central air and heat; gifts to Elon Home for Children; visited sick; "Pounded" the pastor and family; good Vacation Church School; good revival; radio program each Saturday; new addition to building to be

built. Roy Bain, pastor.

Bonifay, New Effort: Youth Revival with Woody Clark and regular revival with Roy Bain; 50 attended Vacation Church School; new carpet in S.S. rooms and foundation poured for new rooms; gifts to Elon Home for Children; family night each month; Easter sunrise service. Joe Brown, pastor.

Brantley, Indian Creek: No one present.

Brantley, Liberty: Old building torn down and new building erected free of debt; church met in homes when without a building; 12 members, with as many as 25 in attendance; pews and hymn books were given as Memorials. Dale Morgan, pastor.

Clio, New Hope: No one was present.

Headland, Blackwood: Sunrise service, Homecoming, Vacation Church School; new roof on sanctuary, new organ, parsonage improved, gifts to Elon Home for Children, OGHs, OCWM, Croziers, Veterans of the Cross, Uplands; seven classes in S.S.; training of youth each Sunday night; 96 members; hired youth choir director; Eugene Henderson is interim pastor.

During the morning, young people met with Alton Nixon and discussed "Friendship", using activities to demonstrate friendship. The Association reaffirmed the resolution adopted at the Southeast Conference urging the participation of Youth in all phases of the life and work of the church.

Baker, Good Hope Church won the attendance banner and Bonifay, New Effort won the percentage attendance banner.

Officers elected were: Moderator, Roy Bain; Vice Moderator, Alton Nixon; Sec.-Treas., David Murphy; Chairman of Church and Ministry, Alton Nixon; Chairman of Outreach, Dale Forman; Chairman of Christian Education, Woody Clark; representative to Board of Directors, Southeast Conference, Alton Nixon.

Dale Forman was licensed to preach. The licenses of Alton Nixon and Woody Clark were renewed.

The Youth Choir of Baker, Good Hope and the Church Choir of Headland, Blackwood Churches brought joy and life to the Association by their singing.

NEWS NOTES

Huntsville United Church made \$517.60 on their yard sale. The Women's Fellowship made an additional \$85 on their bake and craft tables. The Church pledged \$800 for OCWM in 1977, an increase of \$500. They expect to reach it on Thanksgiving Sunday with an offering of \$268. The Youth Group is collecting old bicycle parts for the Morgan-Scott Project (UCC) in Tennessee.

Rev. James E. Cowlshaw resigned as pastor of the Langdale Congregational Christian Church in Ala. Oct. 2, 1977, and has accepted the call to the Rodgers Park United Church of Christ, Kannapolis, N.C., to begin Nov. 1, 1977. He served the Langdale Church three years.

Rev. Ann Calvin Rogers, Associate in the Office for Church Life and Leadership, has accepted a call to be pastor of the Community United Church of Christ, Raleigh, N.C., beginning December 1, 1977. She has served in the Southern Region with offices in Durham, N.C., for the past two years. She has been most helpful in these years to the Southeast Conference. We pray God's blessings upon her in her new ministry.

A service of worship was held in memory of Elder Claudy Adel Spearman, a faithful member of Evergreen Church, Beachton, Ga., on Monday, August 15, 1977. He is survived by five daughters, two sons, twenty-three grandchildren and twenty-one great grandchildren.

A book written by Artis Johnson, pastor of Bethany Church, Thomasville, and Evergreen Church, Beachton, Ga., is now being published: OLIVER WANTS A PONY, Exposition Press, Inc., \$4.00. The book concerns a young man by the name of Oliver who runs away from home, but is found by a beautiful German Shepherd and becomes his friend. Moral of the story: Just wanting something for yourself will not always make you happy.

Biggs of Villa Resigns

Rev. Thomas T. Biggs, Executive Director of Villa International Atlanta since 1968, has resigned to become pastor of a church in Virginia.

Dr. Evelyn L. Green will serve as Acting Director of VIA while a new executive is being sought by the Search Committee.

A reception honoring Biggs and his family is planned for Dec. 4 at VIA.

Rev. Guy Veazey Dies in N. C.

Rev. Guy Hartwell Veazey, native of Alabama and for many years pastor of some of our churches, died at Elon College, N.C., October 19, 1977. Mr. Veazey had made his home at Elon College about thirty years while serving nearby churches and also as Resident Manager of "Moonelon" Conference Center.

His first wife died in 1947, but his second wife, Mabel Higgs Veazey, survives, as do two daughters and one son. Other relatives live in Georgia, Tennessee and Alabama.

Richard Williams II of Thomasville Passes

Richard Williams II, at the age of 95, died October 26, 1977, in Thomasville, Georgia.

A pillar of Bethany Congregational Church, where he was a member for 74 years, he served in many of the church offices faithfully and well.

He is survived by his daughter, Mrs. Mildred W. Newton, with whom he resided in Thomasville.

Mr. Williams was a retired postman and the oldest living male graduate of Allen Normal and Industrial School.

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Water to the Door

The women in the little neighborhood on the edge of the Zeitoun quarter in Gaza no longer have to carry huge jars of water on their heads from a none-too-clean irrigation pipe a kilometer away from their homes. A community development program of the Middle East Council of Churches — which we help to support through our Board for World Ministries — has assisted the community to install a new pipe bringing pure water to each family's door.

The church — and you as a part of it — not only contributed funds to this important community development project, but also staff members of the Middle East Council helped with the community's negotiations with municipality officials which resulted in the loan of equipment and provision for proper supervision of the project. Just one more instance of our helping people all around the world.

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